

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practice



Price List 1925-1926

BETTER  
*Tomato Seed*

NOT WHAT IT  
COSTS —  
WHAT IT DOES

H. P. LANGDON & SON  
CONSTABLE, N. Y.

Choice Tomato Seed Growing

For the man who is satisfied with seed if only it germinates well, and to whom tomatoes, early or late, are just "tomatoes," we probably have nothing of interest. Our work is for the gardener to whom earliness means real money, and productiveness of quality fruit something worth striving for.

Most men, nowadays, realize that heredity is too strong a force in the animal world to be ignored. A herd of scrub cows are always scrubs, no matter how much they are stuffed. There may be good ones in the lot, but their average will fall down when compared with that of cows bred for results.

Heredity is just as powerful a force in plant life, though this fact is not as generally realized. A field of tomatoes planted from unselected seed will grow "Chips off the old block" in spite of a whole summer's most anxious care, just as surely as scrub calves grow into scrub cows. Fruit is a little later ripening than you expect, perhaps, and the market gone, or they may be rough, or soft, or the yield low considering the care given it. You can't be sure of anything about it, except this: that the crop will not be as good as it would have been had the parents of those plants been selected, for generations back, for the qualities you most want. And it doesn't cost as much as "Blue Blood" in cows, either.

When we began growing the Earliana, twenty-two years ago, it had a great many faults. It was rough, often soft, cracked badly and was not a very heavy cropper. This was, however, the earliest market variety, and we selected it as a basis for breeding a strain for our own use as gardeners, for the Adirondack Hotel trade, which would be even earlier than before and with the usual faults of the Earliana bred out.

This selection was not as easy as would appear. The extra early hill was usually a shy bearer, and with too little foliage. An extra well fruited plant on light soil would probably produce a bumper crop of rough fruit on heavy, rich soil. The smooth, globular type, on heavy soil, was likely to prove small under less favorable conditions.

Equally important was the solidity of the fruit. Thin cell walls are usually associated with soft fruit, so fruit of each plant in question must be cut to determine the thickness of cell wall, size of seed cells, lack of hard core and general color.

The hills that seemed nearest our ideal were staked, and the seed planted in separate plots the next summer. Naturally the plot showing the best type, (and the variation was surprising) had somewhat the best parent plant in ability to reproduce the desired qualities. By selecting the best hills in this plot we were not only choosing the best parent plants for the next season's breeding, but the best grandparents.

There is nothing mysterious or sensational about this. A definite ideal, first, based upon years of experience in growing and marketing tomatoes, and big enough to keep one from running off into side issues. Second, a very careful attention to details and a willingness to do all the work one's self in order to know that it is done right, and, third, the patience to wait years for results.

We believe we have had really noteworthy results. It is not a perfect tomato, there is no such thing. Not all conditions are suited to growing Earliana. But where other strains of Earliana will do anything at all, and in many places where they utterly fail, our ADIRONDACK EARLIANA will give an EARLIER, BIGGER crop of LARGE, SMOOTH, FIRM fruit than any other strain.

Having been asked if this strain would stand heavy manuring, we can only say that we are unable to obtain such a quantity of manure up here, but one customer in Rhode Island uses so much that he grows fruit of our EARLIANA which his neighbors will not believe is Earliana, it is so large and smooth. He sent us a photograph of one hill which had 206 fruits on one vine.

But on the other hand one of our customers divided his plants with a neighbor who used a lot of horse manure besides a quantity of high grade nitrogenous fertilizer. The original lot grew smooth, well colored fruit, while the plants given the neighbor and manured with coarse horse manure grew rough fruit. Whether the different manure was the cause of different results in the crop, or whether it was produced by some check in plant growth or by some other unknown cause we do not know. We are only giving you the fact as it came to our observation.

We do know that lack of proper hardening will severely retard ripening and greatly reduce the yield. On the other hand do not check them too severely or they get hide-bound and never fully recover.

Our location on the Northern foothills of the Adirondacks (four miles from the Canadian line) has been an important factor

in breeding for earliness. It is an established fact that plants tend to adapt themselves to their environment, that plants grown in warmer climates gradually decline in Earliness. Our summers average three and a half months free from frost, with generally cool days and many cold nights. Just about as extreme a climate as it is possible to grow tomatoes. In fact when we purchased land seven miles south toward the mountains, for breeding purposes, we found that even the earliest varieties could not be ripened on a commercial basis.

At the date of this writing, October 10th, there are three inches of snow which fell last night, probably not to stay permanently, but this shows what short summers we have here, which beyond doubt tend to accelerate the habit of growth of all cultivated crops.

We are printing below a few unsolicited letters from various parts of the country, showing the unusual adaptability of this Earliana. We thank these friends for their kindness and encouragement:

"Jan. 27, 1925—We have used your tomato seed for some time and have wonderful results in this section. E. Z., Ind."

"Jan. 5, 1925—Find enclosed \$6.50 for 1 oz. Adirondack Earliana and  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Bonny Best Extra Selected. Your strains mean good, honest seed and a good money crop to me, which is everything to the gardener. M. T., Indiana." (A customer since 1914.)

"Jan. 21, 1925—Enclosed find \$2.50 for two oz. grade No. 2 Earliana. We have grown your strain of Earliana and find them the earliest we can get. J. E. H., Iowa." (A customer since 1909).

"Feb. 7, 1925—Your Earliana is THE money maker. C. C. H., Mo."

"Jan. 5, 1925—The seed I got of you last year was by far the best I ever had. I had tomatoes over two weeks ahead of anyone else. E. J., Ohio."

"Jan. 24, 1925—Last year was one of the worst summers I have ever seen, still I made more out of one ounce of your Earliana No. 3 than other things I raised. F. L. L., Iowa."

"Feb. 18, 1925—The results from planting your seeds have been very gratifying. Please send 2 ozs. No. 3 Earliana, and 2 ozs. Bonny Best Extra Selected, \$14.50. J. C. M., New Jersey."

"Feb. 4, 1925—Enclosed find money order for \$18.00 for which send at once one pound No. 2 Earliana. Your seed has always been highly satisfactory. H. B. N., Ont."

"Feb. 20, 1925—I enclose \$10.00 for which send me two ounces Earliana No. 3. Am well pleased with them. H. J. N., Minn."

"Feb. 7, 1925—Enclosed find check for \$18.50 for which send me 2 ozs. No. 3 Earliana, 2 ozs. Bonny Best Extra Selected and 4 ozs. Redhead selected. Trust we are not too late to obtain your best seed which we believe has no equal. D. N. P., Inc., R. I." (A customer every year beginning 1912.)

"Feb. 5, 1925—Having successfully grown your Earliana No. 3 for several years I am again enclosing \$10.00 for two ounces of the above. C. F., Ont."

"Jan. 18, 1925—Enclosed find check for \$5.00 for which send me one ounce Earliana No. 3. I have been buying this same grade of you for twelve years, I believe. Have tried a good many kinds since but this is still the leader. G. E. T., Mass."

"Jan. 12, 1925—I can truthfully say it is by far the best strain of Earliana I have ever seen; in fact I had given up growing this variety as the fruit was so poor in shape and quality. We received "Bonny Best" prices for our crop while in Newfield. R. S. V., N. Y."

"Jan. 27, 1925—Please fill my order for three ounces Earliana No. 3 and four ounces Extra Selected Bonny Best. Exceptionally fine crop last season. R. J. M., Mass."

"Jan. 21, 1925—Please mail  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. Earliana No. 3,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Baer. By way of appreciation let me say that we are very well satisfied with the quality of your seeds. R. E. W., Wis."

"Jan. 7, 1925—Enclosed you will find P. O. Money Order to the amount of \$18.00 for 4 ozs. of your No. 3 Grade Adirondack Earliana. The past season we had a wonderful crop of tomatoes. L. W. P., Va.'

We might add many more along the same line, but space forbids. The best recommendation of our seed is the fact that hundreds of our customers come back. YEAR AFTER YEAR for our EARLIANA seed at our price, which cannot be lower and have enough to supply the demand or enable us to give it the care with which it is now harvested.

PRICE OF LANGDON'S TWENTY-YEAR SELECTION AND  
LINE BRED NORTHERN ADIRONDACK EARLIANA TOMA-  
TO SEED:

Grade No. 1— $\frac{1}{4}$  oz., 25c.;  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., 40c.; 1 oz., 60c.; 2 ozs., \$1.20; 4 ozs., \$2.00; 8 ozs., \$3.60; 1 pound, \$6.40.

Grade No. 2—Seed from Crown and Selected Fruit:  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz., 30c.;  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz., 50c.;  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., 75c. Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound, \$1.25 per oz.;  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound, \$9.50; one pound, \$18.00.

Grade No. 3—Seed from our breeding fields. Best Private Stock, just such as we sow, supply limited:  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz., \$1.00;  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz., \$2.00;  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., \$3.00; 1 oz., \$5.00; 4 ozs., \$18.00. No discount for less than four ounces.

This grade is from Breeding Fields, carefully selected for earliness and vigor in the parent plant and size, shape and smoothness of fruit, which is then cut and all fruit rejected that does not come up to the standard in solidity and small seed cavities. Can be supplied only when in stock; and seed of this grade cannot be bought elsewhere, for the cutting and sorting is not left to the judgment of hired help. It is done personally by the members of the firm themselves, who give you the results of their years of experience in this line.

We believe we are the only growers in the country, or the world, for that matter, of whom you can buy an extra choice grade of tomato seed selected by themselves in the same particular manner as this Grade No. 3 Adirondack Earliana.

#### LATER VARIETIES:

	$\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1 oz.	2 oz.	4 oz.	8 oz.
BONNY BEST, Langdon strain, Extra Selected..	\$1.00	1.50	2.50	4.50	8.00	14.00
BONNY BEST, Langdon strain (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
REDHEAD (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
STONE (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
JEWEL (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
BAER (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
RED ROCK (selected) ....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
BLOOMSDALE (selected) .	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00

#### BONNY BEST. (Langdon Strain)

Two grades, selected and extra selected. Having had a demand for an EXTRA SELECTED grade of our own strain of Bonny Best, corresponding to our Extra Selected Earliana, we have secured a limited quantity of seed of this grade from crown and second cluster fruit grown on the most vigorous, prolific plants.

This selection is done by the members of the firm themselves. There can be none better. The selected grade Bonny Best, as with the other varieties, is secured from medium to large, smooth fruits grown on good hills, discarding all small, immature or rough fruits.

From reports received from our customers and from our own experience we know our strain of Bonny Best to be considerable earlier than ordinary commercial strains, on account of having been grown in the extreme north for so many years. We are receiving many strong recommendations for it, greenhouse forcing as well as out of doors.

"Sept. 25, 1925—Just a few lines to let you know what a wonderful crop we grew from your Bonny Best seed. Our greenhouse is 100 x 29 and we had about three-fourths of it in tomatoes, 430 plants. From these we picked 5,432 pounds, and the yield would have been quite a bit more had all the plants been Langdon's Extra Selected Bonny Best. Of the 430 plants about one-fourth were Globe, which had not half the yield of the Bonny Best. H. N., Mo."

"Jan. 19, 1925—I must tell you of the many varieties and strains I grew last year, your Extra Selected Bonny Best was by far ahead of all kinds in my test. I had gathered together the fastest and best company in the tomato world. D. C. P., Pa."

"Feb. 10, 1925—Please send me one ounce Extra Selected Bonny Best. The Bonny Best seed we purchased of you last year were the finest we ever had, and we have been growing tomatoes for over half a century. J. B., Mo."

### **REDHEAD.**

Although this variety has been introduced but comparatively few years, the demand exceeds that of any other variety except Adirondack Earliana and Bonny Best. It is early, vines vigorous and productive, fruit large, well colored, firm and of good shape.

### **BAER, JEWEL AND STONE.**

These are standard second earlies which need no description, the variety best suited to you depending largely upon your market, location and soil. We have selected grades of these and our strains are as good as the best, besides being grown in the north.

### **BLOOMSDALE.**

Although of recent origin, this variety gives promise of being very good. In the two years we have grown it it has proved a heavy cropper, fruit bright red to the stem, large size and very thick. Season same as Red Rock. We believe it well worth a trial.

## **RED ROCK**

Is the best late main crop tomato we have yet found. In productiveness on light sand during drought it may be excelled by Bloomsdale, but under any other condition it is splendidly productive. Fruit is really remarkable in firmness and long keeping qualities. Almost never cracks. Even during the continuous rains of last fall this variety had but few culs, while others cracked and rotted badly. Color uniformly dark red, size and shape good and table quality unexcelled. Vines very vigorous. It has been our experience that this variety has been well liked by everyone.

## **MIMMS CUCUMBERS.**

We can recommend this cuke. Early and very prolific, yet the fruit is uniformly long and slim, a splendid market variety. Have grown it for years and is still the best we know of. Seed from selected fruit.

Price— $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., 20c.; 1 oz., 35c.

## **"HARRIS EARLIEST" SWEET PEPPER.**

A very early, medium sized and very prolific pepper, which is to peppers what our Earliana is to tomatoes. Very mild and sweet. No pepper is earlier.

Price— $\frac{1}{4}$  oz., 40c.;  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., 60c.; 1 oz., \$1.00.

This is not a large list of varieties, but they are all **good**. We prefer growing a few of the very best kinds, lessening the possibility of crossing or of mistakes, and keeping each to its own particular type, rather than to spread over a larger list for the benefit of a few who might want them.

Please order early before the rush comes, write your NAME PLAINLY, NAMING SECOND CHOICE IF ANY, and do not send postage stamps except for amounts less than \$1.00. 1c. or 2c. stamps preferred. We try to fill all orders by first mail. IF NOT PROMPTLY RECEIVED, NOTIFY US.

Yours for the best in the business,

**H. P. LANGDON & SON,**

November, 1925.

**CONSTABLE, N. Y.**